

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

FEA-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

INT-05 OES-03 /096 W

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R 012055Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1245

E.O. 11652 - XGDS(1) - DECLAS INDETERMINABLE

TAGS: ETRD, ECIN, ES, MX, VE

SUBJECT SELA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1042

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO, DURING THE COURSE OF AN APRIL 1 CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM, RAISED THE TOPIC OF SELA AND THE GOES RESPONSE TO THE NOTE FROM THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER (PARA 4, REFTEL). BORGONOVO SAID HE INITIATED A COORDINATED RESPONSE BY THE FIVE CA COUNTRIES TO THE ARGENTINE NOTE. HIS CONTACT WITH THE GOH WAS VIA GUATEMALA AND, LACKING A SPECIFIC REPLY, HE IS NOT CERTAIN HOW THE GOH RESPONDED. THE NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
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SUGGESTED A LINE CALLING ON SELA TO RESPECT THE

POLITICAL LINES ADOPTED IN OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO ADOPT AND PRACTICE AGREEMENTS OF A PRAGMATIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHARACTER, THUS AVOIDING THE CREATION OF A NEW POLITICAL FORUM. THIS WAS ACCEPTED BY GUATEMALA, GOCR AND THE GOES. GUATEMALA REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED BORGONOVO'S DRAFT, BUT SUBSEQUENT TO THE GOES'S REPLY TO ARGENTINA IT ADDED THE IDEA (WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL APPEAR IN THE GOG REPLY) THAT THE RELATIVELY WELL TO DO COUNTRIES IN SELA (MEXICO AND VENEZUELA) ESTABLISH FUNDS FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF THE RELATIVELY POOR MEMBERS.

2. THE MARCH 21 REPLY TO ARGENTINA (COPY POUCHED TO ARA/CEN/ES) APPARENTLY ENDORSED SEVERAL IDEAS IN THE ARGENTINE NOTE, I.E., 1) THAT SELA SHOULD BE A VEHICLE TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND NOT A FORUM FOR CONFRONTATION WITH ANY COUNTRY OR HEMISPHERE ORGANIZATION, AND 2) THAT IT IS ASSUMED THE PROPOSAL OF THE PRESIDENTS OF MEXICO AND VENEZUELA ENVISAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE INVITED STATES IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE OBJECTIVES AND TERMS OF SELA.

3. OTHER KEY ELEMENTS OF THE GOES' REPLY NOTE ARE:

--GOES VIEWS WITH INTEREST THE MEXICAN/VENEZUELAN SELA PROPOSAL AND BELIEVES ITS REALIZATION CAN BE POSITIVE IN TERMS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND COOPERATION. BUT THE FORMATION IS JUSTIFIED ONLY IF IT PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY IN LINES OF ACTION AND AVOIDS DUPLICATION OF OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RATHER COMPLEMENTING THEM.

--EL SALVADOR SEES AS AN INDISPENSABLE CONDITION WITHIN THE BASES OF SELA, A PRIORITY FAVORING THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, CREATING REAL ADVANTAGES IN TERMS OF PROJECTS AND MARKET ACCESS.

--ALTHOUGH ALL COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA SHOULD ASPIRE TO SELA MEMBERSHIP, LACK OF TOTAL PARTICIPATION SHOULD NOT IMPEDE ITS CREATION AND OPERATION.
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